

Minutes of  
Jackson County Commissioners  
February 2, 2021  
6:00 PM

Present: Commissioner Matt Reedy, Commissioner Drew Markel & Commissioner Bob Gillaspay

Commissioner Matt Reedy called the meeting to order.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Silent Prayer observed.

Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve the minutes of the January 19, 2021 Regular Meeting.

Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve the Payroll of January 29, 2021 in the amount of \$431,888.37 along with Monthly Claims, including electronic checks in the amount of \$2,914,825.05. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

**Reports from other Committees:**

Commissioner Reedy stated that a decision came back today in favor of the County on the Nativity Scene case.

In December 2020, a stay was granted, allowing the display to be on the lawn for the holiday. Today, February 2, 2021, Jackson County won the appeal with the judge finding the display to be Constitutionally Correct.

Commissioner Reedy stated that the dog shelter committee met last Thursday.

**End of Reports from other Committees.**

Wayne Burrell with Future Energy Solutions (FES) then appeared before Commissioners to discuss ways in which his company may be able to help save money in regards to LED lighting on the inside of the Jail. Burrell has previously met with Commander Everhart and discussed the possibility. FES has worked with several counties in Indiana and been able to assist in cost reduction. The first step would be for the company to come in and do an Audit of the Jail and see if it would be a good change. After discussion, Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to allow the audit, with the results to be presented to the Commissioners before any future steps are taken. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Commissioner Markel made a motion to appoint Michael Weiler to the Brownstown Fire District to replace Jerry Kindred, who is no longer eligible to serve. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Human Resource Director, Jeff Hubbard, then discussed the Emergency Pay Sick Leave Act with Commissioners. This act ended on Dec 31, 2021. However, it is a decision of the Commissioners if they wish to extend the period, allowing those who have tested positive for COVID or who must quarantine to receive no more than 80 hrs of pay. Once an employee has reached the 80 hrs, regular PTO time must be taken to cover any remaining time off. Commissioner Markel made a motion to extend the pay until March 31, 2021. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Hubbard then discussed that a letter needs to be submitted from the President of the Board of Commissioners supporting the Jackson County Health Dept has used fund from the "2<sup>nd</sup> CARES Act" for the enforcement of safety of COVID 19. Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion authorizing Commissioner Reedy to sign the letter. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.

Hubbard then discussed the fact that in switching to the new phone system, Comcast did not port over 4 numbers. Commissioner Markel stated that he signed paperwork this afternoon, to send to Comcast, allowing this to be completed.

Custodian Jana Wessel then discussed the following with Commissioners:

- presented a quote from Ken Neely for the repair of 10 cast iron lamp post fixtures. After review of the quote, Commissioner Markel made a motion to approve the repair, not to exceed \$5,271.00 and with the revision for the quote to contain the quantity to be fixed. Commissioner Gillaspay seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.
- The county received a rebate from Duke Energy for \$2,252 for switching the historic courthouse to LED
- Courthouse lawn care – commissioners advised Wessel to contact JL Brewer with Community Corrections to see if they would be available to mow the courthouse lawn. Commissioners also advised to leave the spraying of the lawns the same as last year.
- Wessel presented the dog shelter light bill for Commissioner review.

Dustin Steward then appeared before Commissioners on behalf of the Sheriff. Steward presented a Memorandum of Understanding for the purchase of a truck for the Student Resource Officer, by the Sheriff's Commissary Fund to be repaid by Seymour Community Schools. Upon review of the memorandum, it did not have the repayment information. Commissioner asked that it be revised and brought back to the next meeting.

Steward and Jerry Ault, Highway Superintendent, then discussed with Commissioners the possibility of the Sheriff's dept and Highway Department having Credit Card, allowing for online purchases and store purchases. After discussion, Commissioners advised for Jeff Hubbard or the auditor make contact with other counties to see what procedures they have in place in regards to credit card accounts.

Jerry Ault then discussed the following with Commissioners:

- Unofficial detour routes were presented for State Hwy's 135 & 58. Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.
- Budgeted Pick-up truck purchase for 2021 – The total cost to purchase a pick up from John Jones after trade in will be \$28,142.00, leaving enough funds to purchase a salt spreader and plow for the truck. Commissioner Gillaspay made a motion to approve the purchase of the truck and equipment and the trade in of the 2012 Chevrolet Silverado VIN 1GC0KVCG1CZ130983. Commissioner Markel seconded. Three (3) yes votes, motion carried.
- During the last snow, one truck was wrecked and an additional truck was sent to Indianapolis for repair on the electronic salt spreader.

County Attorney Susan Bevers stated that Seymour Department of Public Works is allowing Jackson County EMA to store a trailer and equipment in their facility. There will be a memorandum of understanding brought to the next meeting in regards to this.

Commissioner Markel stated that Jackson County did an excellent job in supporting and fighting for the Nativity Scene to be displayed on the Courthouse lawn. The county moved through the bullying and threats, used common sense and did what was right. Liberty Council, who worked pro-bono, as well as the County Attorney Susan Bevers and officials did an excellent job with this issue. In December 2020, a stay was issued, allowing the County to display the Nativity Scene for the 2020 holiday season. On February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, the 7<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court ruled that the display is Constitutionally Correct.

EMA Director, Duane Davis then informed Commissioners that the Grant he applied for in regards to a Cyber Security Plan has been approved and \$22,000 will be awarded. This will allow for a company to come in and write a plan for the county.

Commissioners then recessed until February 16, 2021.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 9:00 AM.

Signed this 16<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2021.

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Matt Reedy

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Drew Markel

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Bob Gillaspay

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Roger Hurt - attest